

Luzerne County Head Start opened in 1965 and was one of the first such programs in the nation.

The program has grown from initially serving 90 children in one community, Wilkes-Barre, to serving a total of 692 children today at 11 locations in Luzerne and Wyoming counties.

Mr. Speaker, Luzerne County Head Start's accomplishments are truly impressive. Over the past 35 years, the program has prepared more than 12,000 children to enter kindergarten excited about learning and ready to succeed in school.

Further, four of Luzerne County Head Start's classrooms were accredited in 1999 by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and other classrooms are being reviewed.

To put that in perspective, only 7 percent of early childhood programs nationwide have received this accreditation.

Head Start provides a high quality education program to children and their families. In addition, the program ensures that children receive nutrition and social services and needed medical services, including immunizations, health check-ups and preventive screenings.

Mr. Speaker, studies have shown that one-third more at-risk children who attended a quality early childhood program such as Head Start graduated from high school compared to those who did not attend.

Studies also show that at-risk children who have been enrolled in Head Start or other quality early childhood programs are 25 percent less likely to repeat a grade.

Since the current cost of public education averages \$5,200 per student, per year nationally, programs like Luzerne County Head Start save taxpayers a significant amount of money in the long run.

Head Start is a proven program that helps to give children a strong beginning in life. I am proud to support it and proud of the good work of the Head Start centers throughout my district.

Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, funding for Head Start has doubled and I strongly support President Clinton's goal of increasing the number of children served nationally by Head Start from 793,807 in 1997 to 1 million in 2002.

Lynn Evans Biga is the very capable director of Luzerne County Head Start. She is aided by the board, including the executive committee of President John Hogan, Vice President Carl Goeringer Jr., Secretary Joanne Coolbaugh and Treasurer Gene Caprio, all of whom volunteer their time for this fine program, as does every member of the board.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Luzerne County Head Start on the occasion of its 35th anniversary, and I send my best wishes for continued success to the employees and the many children and families whom they serve so well.

THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE DATA MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Immigration

and Naturalization Service Data Management Improvement Act of 2000.

This bill would eliminate the present provisions of section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, which requires the establishment of a new entry-exit data collection system at land, sea, and air borders to our country. The bill replaces the requirement for the implementation of a new data collection system with the implementation of an "integrated entry and exit data system" using currently available data.

I welcome this important change in the provisions of section 110. This is an issue of great concern to the people and businesses of Michigan and other border states. Studies have revealed that carrying out the mandate of section 110 to create a new entry-exit data collection system would cause massive traffic congestion along our borders, bringing personal and business travel at many border points to a halt. This would have a crippling effect on trade and tourism.

I also would like to note for the record my understanding of a technical issue. The bill includes an implementation deadline for high-traffic land border ports of entry. With regard to land border crossings, I have been assured that the implementation provision in the deadline only refers to the "Arrival-Departure Records" (Form I-94) that already are issued to some foreign nationals when they enter the United States and that the deadline provision does not in any way impose a requirement on the Attorney General to develop a new system for collecting exit data at land borders.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service Data Management Improvement Act of 2000 is a far preferable alternative to the onerous data collection requirements of the existing version of section 110 of IIRIRA. I look forward to working with Representative LAMAR SMITH in seeing that this important change is passed into law this Congress.

IN HONOR OF MRS. H. BERT
(RUTH) MACK

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Mrs. H. Bert Mack, who will be honored by The Hillcrest Jewish Center at their 60th Anniversary dinner dance on Sunday, May 21st, 2000.

Ruth Mack has devoted over 50 years of her life to maintaining the high standards of excellence for which The Hillcrest Jewish Center is known throughout the Jewish communities of Queens County and New York. Ruth and her late husband, H. Bert Mack, have both been major benefactors to The Hillcrest Jewish Center. In fact, Mr. Mack was a guarantor of the original mortgage to construct The Hillcrest Jewish Center youth building. It comes as no surprise that The Hillcrest Jewish Center's main building has been named after H. Bert and Ruth Mack.

Mr. Speaker, Ruth Mack continues to carry on the philanthropic legacy that she and her husband valued so greatly. She is a generous contributor to many Jewish organizations including: The Eldridge Street Synagogue and

the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Battery Park. She is also a benefactor of the esteemed Long Island Jewish Hospital. In addition, Ruth Mack has given generously of her own time, and she has spent many years teaching Hebrew to adults.

Growing up in the community, I can personally attest to the high esteem in which Ruth and her entire family are held by the multitudes who know and love her. On this special day it is also a privilege to be able to acknowledge Ruth Mack's four children: William, David, Earle and Frederick, as well as her six grandchildren: Steven, Richard, Andrew, Beatrice, Jason and Haley.

During my eighteen years of service in the U.S. Congress, I have been honored to speak and attend services at The Hillcrest Jewish Center on numerous occasions. The friendly and spiritual environment that I associate with The Hillcrest Jewish Center could not be possible were it not for the charitable contributions provided unselfishly by Ruth Mack.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me today in honoring Mrs. H. Bert (Ruth) Mack for her loyalty and dedication to The Hillcrest Jewish Center.

TRIBUTE TO HOUSTON COUNTY LEGISLATOR JOSEPH SHERRILL STAFFORD

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to a great American and Georgian, Joseph Sherrill Stafford, who died Tuesday, May 9, 2000.

Mr. Stafford was an inspiration to all of us. As a leader and public servant, he believed strongly in doing what's right, and always gave 100 percent of himself to the people of Houston County, placing his faith in the Lord, his family, and his country. He will be greatly missed by the people of Georgia and his accomplishments will be long remembered.

Mr. Stafford was a graduate of Perry High School and married the former Ann Hallman of Bibb County, Georgia, in 1961. He served in the Army, from 1954-1956, and retired from Robins Air Force Base in 1989 after 30 years. He began his political career more than four decades ago as the mayor of Centerville, Georgia. Mr. Stafford was the first full-time chairman of the Houston County Commission, beginning in 1991, served as Chairman of the 21st Century Partnership, the community support group for Robins Air Force Base, taught Sunday school at First Baptist Church of Centerville, and just recently was named president of the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I had the distinct pleasure of working very closely with Mr. Stafford on many projects. During his long and enduring career, Mr. Stafford always remembered the ones he represented in a smooth, soothing and effective manner. Mr. Stafford was proud of the new courthouse and jail under construction near Perry, Georgia and will long be remembered in my mind, and the people of Georgia as an honest, hard working, servant of his constituents and his country.

I will miss Sherrill Stafford as a public servant, but I will miss him even more as a good friend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall nos. 180, 181, 182, and 183 I was unavoidably detained and missed these votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all four votes.

HONORING THE CAREER OF LINDA N. CLARK

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Mrs. Linda Clark, principal of Flint Hill Elementary School in Vienna, Virginia. She has been the principal of Flint Hill Elementary for the past 25 years and will be retiring this week. From her humble start as a Third Grade teacher in Illinois to her being named the principal of Flint Hill Elementary in 1975, she has exemplified all that is good about the educational profession.

As principal of Flint Hill Elementary, Linda demonstrated and encouraged creativity and innovation in the classroom. She continually encouraged the staff, students and parents to stretch their talents and strengths and attempt new goals and endeavors, while always respecting the personality, teaching, and learning styles of staff, students, and parents.

Linda has always tried to foster cooperation between her school and her students' community. She held monthly parent coffees in various Flint Hill neighborhoods, and she created "Curriculum Nights" for various grade levels to share with parents. Linda also created "Highlights," a quarterly newsletter sent to all Flint Hill Elementary School families, which provides information on grade level curriculum activities for the upcoming school quarter. While strengthening ties between the school and the community, Linda also was an integral part of maintaining continuing dialogue between the faculty and staff in Flint Hill Elementary. Linda met regularly with staff members to discuss their professional growth and concerns. She always participated in morning and afternoon Flint Hill news programs, and she enjoyed meeting with individual and groups of students to discuss various issues, all-the-while encouraging feedback from students and staff regarding school programs and procedures.

While making Flint Hill Elementary School a friendlier place to learn, Linda took steps to keep herself, her staff, and faculty abreast of new developments in the field of education. To do this, she solicited feedback from many areas of expertise in formulating the school's curriculum. She shared reading material with the staff dealing with educational issues in particular child development: learning styles and brain development. Linda and Flint Elementary are also the proud hosts of the Area

III Technology Expo, where Fairfax County School staff and students share and learn about the latest developments in the fields of computer and technological instruction related to POS and SOL objectives. I have had the opportunity to attend this expo on several occasions and can attest to its depth and substance.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish to thank Principal Clark for all she has done for Flint Hill Elementary School over the past 25 years. She has been a role model for her students and colleagues, and she exemplifies the ideal of being a "lifelong learner." Her obvious curiosity about the world, its cultures, its people and her love of learning and sharing of knowledge are contagious. I know my colleagues join me in honoring Linda for her 25 years of dedicated service to educating our children and improving our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote Monday, due to family obligations requiring my presence in Milwaukee. I was also present for a vote on Tuesday evening and believe I voted, but my vote was not recorded.

On rollcall No. 187, concerning an amendment (H. Amdt. 709) offered by Representative GEKAS to the Comprehensive Budget Process Reform Act (H.R. 853), I was present but my vote was not recorded. I had intended to vote "nay."

On rollcall No. 182, Expressing the Sense of the Congress with Regard to In-School Personal Safety Education Programs for Children (H. Con. Res. 309), had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 181, regarding the Congressional Oversight of Nuclear Transfers to North Korea Act (H.R. 4251), had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 180, regarding Naming a room in the House of Representatives wing of the Capitol in honor of G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery (H. Res. 491), had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING ROBERT C. MCGANN, ACTING JUSTICE OF THE NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Judge Robert McGann for his long career of service to the city and state of New York. Judge McGann will be the Guest of Honor at this year's Catholic Lawyers Guild annual dinner on May 24th.

Born on June 11th, 1948, Judge McGann is a native of Queens County. He is a 1969 graduate of Fordham University, where he received a degree in Political Philosophy. He served on the Editorial Board of the Law Re-

view at New York Law School where he was awarded a Juris Doctor degree in 1972.

Upon graduation from law school, Judge McGann was appointed as an Assistant District Attorney in Queens County in 1972, serving under Thomas Mackell, Michael Armstrong and Nicholas Ferraro. In 1976, he was appointed Special Assistant Attorney General in the office of Special Prosecutor John F. Keenan. From 1981 to 1986, he was an Inspector General in the administration of New York City Mayor Edward Koch.

Mayor Koch appointed him to the New York City Criminal Court in 1986. He has served as Justice of the Supreme Court by Designation since 1995.

Judge McGann has been an Adjunct Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at St. John's University since 1977. He has lectured nationally on arson and other Fire Service related issues. He attended the National College of District Attorneys and the Cornell Organized Crime School.

He is a member of the Queens County Bar and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. Judge McGann is also a member of the Catholic Lawyers Guild and is active in his parish, St. Andrew Avellino.

Judge McGann and his wife, Jane, are the proud parents of two daughters, Laura and Elizabeth.

Mr. Speaker, please join me recognizing Judge Robert C. McGann on a distinguished career, and his lifetime of commitment to Queens County and New York City.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK WEEK AND THE CON- TRIBUTION OF THE LONG BEACH BIKESTATION

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, May 14–20 is National Bike to Work Week. As a longtime supporter of bicycling, I encourage Americans to participate in this week of safe cycling as an alternative way to commute. As concerns rise about congestion on our roads and more air pollution, many workers forget about an alternative that is good for the soul and the environment.

Many commuters must rely on cars or public transit to get to work or school. However, for many, biking to work represents an often overlooked alternative. The bicycle represents a clean and convenient method of travel that more Americans are utilizing to stay fit, avoid traffic jams, parking hassles and expense, and promote clean air.

One development that is helping to make biking more attractive to commuters is located in the district I represent. The Long Beach Bikestation offers a public bike/transit center strategically located in downtown Long Beach to help people ride their bikes to work. Fifty thousand bikes have been used by satisfied customers. This facility won the Federal Highway Administration's Environmental Excellence award for Excellence in Community Livability in 1999. The Bikestation connects to more than 30 miles of suburban bike paths, downtown employment, shopping and a dining district. Modeled after facilities in Europe and